

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-15, and 19-27 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, and 14 have been amended, and claims 2, 4, 16-18, and 28-35 have been canceled. Support for the claim amendments is found, at least, in Figure 1 of the drawings, and no new matter is added.

Claims 1, 3, 5-15, and 19-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by Harumoto (U.S. Appln. No.: 20002/0021909). Applicant respectfully traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of the claims as set forth below. Of the rejected claims, claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims.

The following remarks for patentability are for independent claim 1 and apply by analogy although not coextensively to independent 14.

Claim 1, as amended, requires:

an information transmission module that is arranged at a specific location facing a preset posterior circumferential position where each of the multiple recording agent cartridges reaches after formation of a corresponding color component image at an image-forming circumferential position, said information transmission module transmitting information in a contactless, storable manner to a storage element mounted on a certain recording agent cartridge, which has just completed formation of a corresponding color component image at the image-forming circumferential position and has moved in the circumferential direction to the posterior circumferential position;

The Examiner indicated that Harumoto has a communication portion 92 that reads on the information transmission module disclosed in claim 1. However, Harumoto fails to teach or suggest an information transmission module for transmitting information to a storage element at a specific location facing a preset posterior circumferential position where each of the multiple recording agent cartridges reaches just after formation of a corresponding color component image at an image-forming circumferential position, as recited in claim 1.

Harumoto teaches “As shown in FIG. 2, in the main body 1 of the full-color printer described above, at the developing unit...positioned upstream of the developing position of the rotary developing devices 5, a communication portion 92 on the apparatus main body used for radio wave communication with the storage element member 91 in the developer cartridge 50 is provided at a position corresponding to the upper part of the developer cartridge 50 of the developing device 5 [emphasis added].” (paragraph [0064]) Applicant submits that Harumoto makes no disclosure regarding the communication portion 92 being at a specific location facing a preset posterior circumferential position that each of the multiple recording agent cartridges reaches just after formation of a corresponding color component image, as recited in claim 1.

Further, Applicant submits that Okada (U.S. Appln. No.: 2002/0015597) does not compensate for the deficiencies of Harumoto. Even taken as a whole for what they would have meant to a skilled artisan, the combined teachings of Harumoto and Okada would not render obvious the unique features of claim 1.

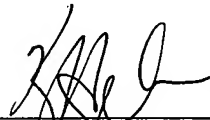
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/797,564
Attorney Docket No. Q80348

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 is patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 and their respective dependent claims 3, 5-13, 15, and 19-27.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 27, 2006